



# Westside Lead Cleanup

Atlanta, Georgia

## Residential Yard Cleanup To Begin February 2020

January 2020 Fact Sheet

### Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will host a public meeting to discuss plans to begin addressing lead contamination on some properties in Atlanta's westside. Since 2018, the EPA has overseen residential soil sampling in a section of English Avenue which includes 368 properties between Joseph E. Boone Blvd NW, James P. Brawley Dr NW, Cameron Alexander Blvd NW and the old CSX rail line (*see map on page 3*). The EPA was given permission to sample 124 properties thus far and, of those, 66 require clean up.

**Kick-Off Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 23, 2020**

**6:00 pm**

YMCA of Metro Atlanta  
Leadership & Learning Center  
569 MLK, Jr. Drive NW  
Atlanta, GA

EPA will be present to answer questions about the cleanup.  
Contact Kyle Bryant for questions about the meeting.

### What to Expect

Beginning in February, the EPA will clean up residential yards where elevated levels of lead were found. The Agency will be:

- Digging up and replacing the soil with clean fill, topping the areas with sod, and restoring areas as they were.
- Suppressing dust and air monitoring during excavation to ensure residents and workers are safe.
- Disposing of contaminated materials at an approved, off-site facility.



*Example of typical yard excavation at a similar site*



*The same yard after cleanup at a similar site*

# We Need Your Help

To date, the EPA has sampled 124 of the target properties (34%) and we need your help to sample the rest. The EPA is offering soil testing at **no cost** to residents and property owners in the study area shown on the map (*page 3*). If you are a renter or owner, please reach out to one of the EPA contacts listed to learn how you can give the Agency permission to sample your yard.

The soil samples will be taken outside of your homes and residents/owners do not have to be present. Individual results will be kept confidential and shared directly with residents and property owners. Industrial and commercial properties will not be sampled under the EPA's current project.

## Background

In 2018, an Emory University doctoral student shared data with the EPA showing elevated lead levels collected from soil samples in Atlanta's Westside neighborhoods. Research by the EPA led to the discovery of industrial smelting waste, called "slag," on two lots near Elm Street.

Sampling around the Elm Street and English Avenue areas indicated elevated lead levels above the Agency's recommended residential level of 400 milligrams per kilogram, also known as "parts per million" (ppm) are present in some, but not all, locations. Sampling is ongoing and will be used to evaluate the appropriate next steps to protect public health and the environment. If the sampling indicates additional properties may be impacted, the study area will be expanded, as necessary.

## What You Can Do

We understand you may have questions about the possible contamination and what it means for you and your family. Residents and property owners are encouraged to reach out to the EPA contacts listed below to learn more. To limit you and your family's exposure to lead, please visit the Georgia Department of Health's website at <https://dph.georgia.gov/lead-education-and-faqs>. This website lists simple steps you can take to reduce your family's exposure to lead.

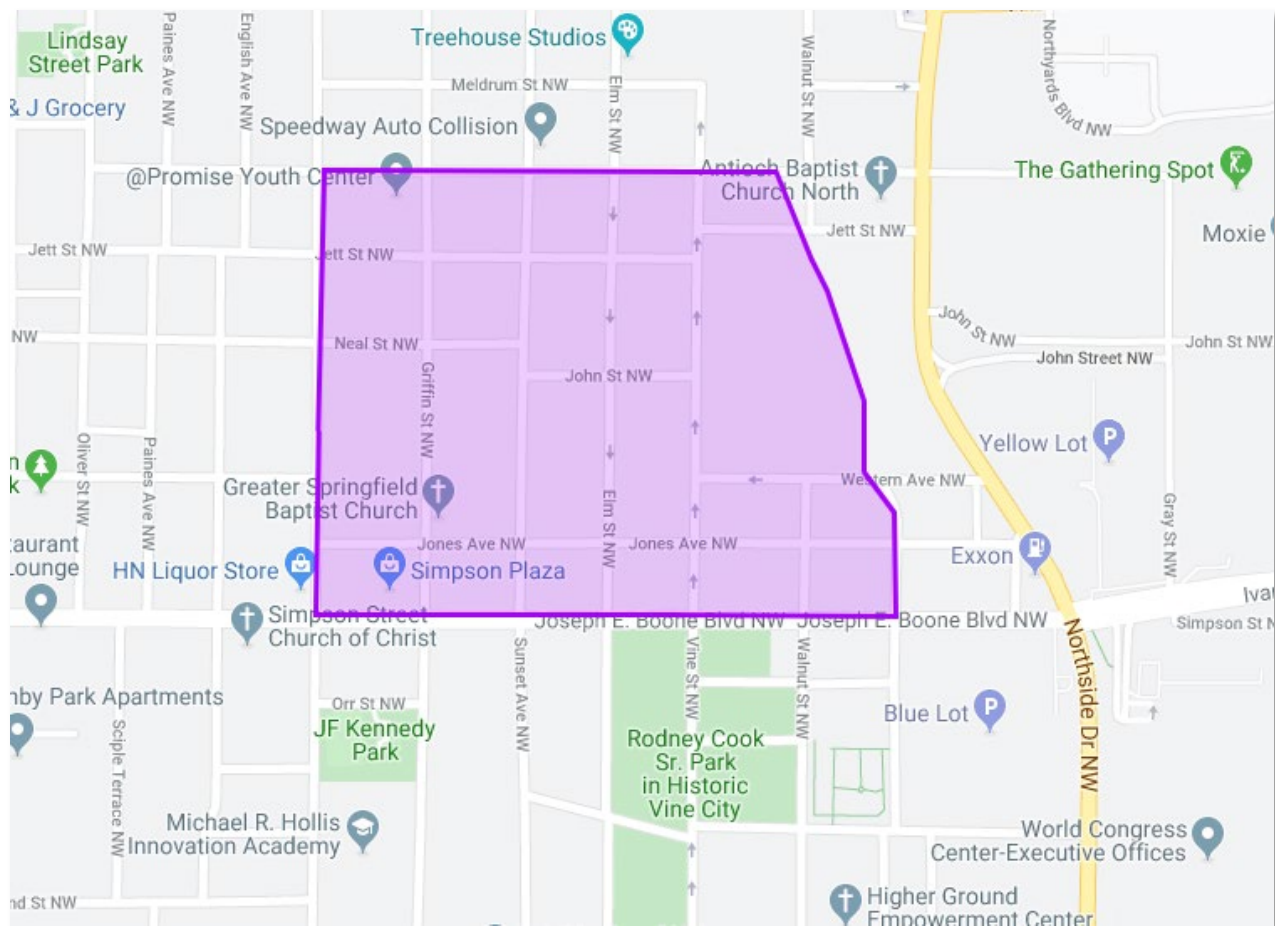
### WESTSIDE LEAD CLEANUP PROGRESS



ABOUT 124 OF 368  
residential properties have been sampled.



Sampling is ongoing and  
more yards requiring cleanup  
may be identified.



*Map of the Westside Study Area (Courtesy of Google)*



## CONTACT US!

### **EPA On-Scene Coordinators**

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### **EPA Community Involvement Coordinator**

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